

Arabiyyat hails APU Tripoli meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyyat Monday returned home after leading Jordan's delegation to the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting which concluded in Tripoli, Libya, Sunday. Dr. Arabiyyat said the meeting, in which most of the APU members participated, was successful. He added that the resolutions adopted by the APU affirmed the importance of Arab solidarity and the need to clear Arab atmosphere. The meeting, he said, was a turning point towards Arab solidarity and joint action. Dr. Arabiyyat told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Jordanian delegation had a distinguished role at the meeting and that it held bilateral meetings with all the delegations taking part. He noted that Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi lauded the role carried out by the Jordanian leadership and people. "The meeting affirmed the need to mobilise the capabilities of the Arab people to support the frontline states bordering the Zionist entity so as to stop its continuous aggression on the Arab Nation," he said. The Jordanian delegation to the meetings included Senator Jumaa Hammud and Lower House deputy speaker Atef Al Butoush.

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King receives cables of support

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court announced Monday that it had received cables addressed to His Majesty King Hussein, voicing support for his policies as outlined by the King in his address to the Royal War College recently. The cables expressed total backing for the King's views for solidarity among Arab countries in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Iraq appoints new oil minister

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has named its minister of state for oil. Usama Abdul Razzaq, the country's new oil minister, the Iraqi news agency (INA) reported on Monday. Abdul Razzaq became a minister of state in the new government formed by Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi in March. The agency gave no details about the appointment. Iraq's Minister of Heavy Industry and Military Industrialisation General Amer Hammoudi Al Saadi was appointed acting oil minister in March.

Soviet lawmakers to visit Iraq

MOSCOW (AP) — A delegation from the hard-line Soyuz faction of Soviet lawmakers plans to visit Iraq in the first half of June, the state news agency TASS reported Monday. Before and during the Gulf war, members of Soyuz voiced misgivings about the Soviet Union's moral support for the international military action against Iraq. The visit to Iraq by members of the Supreme Soviet legislature could mark an effort by Soyuz to repair relations between Moscow and Baghdad, once a close Soviet ally.

U.S. imposes sanctions on China

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (R) — The Bush administration has imposed new curbs on high-technology exports to China because of Beijing's alleged sale of missiles and other advanced weaponry to countries like Pakistan, a senior administration official said on Monday. "As of today, China will not have access to high-speed computers. This is directly related to missile technology control violations," the official said. The official, who asked not to be identified, briefed reporters as President George Bush was flying here to deliver an address at Yale University.

Iraq releases conscripts

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has decided to release army conscripts born in 1961, 1962 and 1963, the army newspaper Al Qadisiya said on Monday. The oldest group will be demobilised on Tuesday and the other two groups within a few days, it said. Iraq has disbanded its popular army, said to be one million strong, since the end of the Gulf war in late February. The newspaper Babil said on Sunday soldiers on reserve duty were asking how they would live without salaries once they are discharged.

Ben Ali in Spain

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali arrived in Spain Monday on a visit aimed at winning economic and political support for the North African country. King Juan Carlos and Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez greeted Ben Ali at El Pardo palace, where he was to stay during the two-day visit. After a private lunch with Juan Carlos, Ben Ali was to meet with Gonzalez. The two countries were to sign scientific and cultural cooperation agreements.

Iraq ready to export oil through Turkey

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraq is ready to resume oil exports through Turkey as soon as the U.N. sanctions committee approves, the State Minister for Oil Affairs, Usama Abdul Razzaq Al Heeti, said Monday. Al Heeti told a press conference in Baghdad that Turkish officials last week said they were ready to help Iraq resume those exports.

Government orders ceasefire; U.S. calls on rebels to enter capital

Addis Ababa braces for final rebel push

Combined agency dispatches

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Tesfaye Dinka on Monday threw doubt on the future of peace talks in London, saying he rejected an American call for rebel troops to take over the capital Addis Ababa.

A visibly angry Tesfaye told a news conference: "This step of inviting the EPRDF to go into Addis Ababa is the wrong move."

Dinka said his government would take no further part in U.S.-brokered peace talks unless the invitation to the rebels of the Ethiopian People's Revolution-

ary Democratic Front to move into the capital was reversed.

Earlier U.S. diplomat Herman Cohen, brokering talks between the government and three main rebel factions, announced that the government was declaring a ceasefire.

Cohen said the United States recommended the EPRDF forces enter the city as soon as possible "to help stabilise the situation."

In Addis Ababa, the State Council issued a statement ordering its forces to observe an immediate ceasefire to help create a good climate for the London talks.

Tesfaye said he also wanted

other political groups inside and outside the country to be included in the peace negotiations, which had been due to start in earnest on Tuesday.

Cohen on Monday held preliminary separate talks with Tesfaye, the EPRDF and two other rebel groups — the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Oromo Liberation Front.

Outside the London hotel venue for the talks, an EPRDF leader dismissed Tesfaye's statement.

"He is no position to reject or accept anything," Meles Zenawi said. (Continued on page 5)

223 killed in Lauda-Air crash

BAN HUAY KHAMIN, Thailand (R) — An Austrian airliner exploded into a fireball before crashing into a jungle hilltop in Thailand, killing all 223 people aboard.

Austrian police, however, discredited earlier reports that a bomb brought down the Boeing 767-300 owned by the airline founded by former world motor racing champion Niki Lauda.

The Lauda-Air Boeing crashed around midnight on Sunday about 200 kilometres northwest of the Thai capital.

Flight NG004 disappeared from the Bangkok control tower's radar screen about 16 minutes after takeoff, Pyasak Chuket, deputy director general of Thailand's aviation department, told reporters on Monday.

The pilot had not reported any problems, he said, adding this could indicate the plane exploded or caught fire without warning. He declined to speculate whether the crash was caused by a bomb.

Searchers said they found the airliner's flight recorders on Monday afternoon.

Lauda, who was to leave Austria for Thailand, said a man telephoned Vienna international airport shortly after news of the crash was announced and said a bomb had been mistakenly put on

board the Lauda-Air flight in Bangkok.

The man said the bomb had been intended for a United Airlines flight, Lauda added.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Rnpp of Vienna airport security later told Austrian radio the caller was not claiming responsibility for the crash.

"The caller wanted only to give us a tip on how the accident might have happened," he said.

United Airlines in Bangkok said it had no flights leaving the city at the same time as Lauda-Air.

About 300 police and rescue workers were trying to recover bodies from still-burning wreckage carpeting a bamboo grove on the 500-metre hilltop.

Their efforts were hampered by thousands of people who tramped up the jungle hillside to pick through the wreckage for clothing and valuables.

Shoes, handbags and clothing were littered around the crash site. Severed limbs hung from trees. Rescue workers carried bodies and parts of bodies slung to bamboo poles.

Debris was strewn over about five kilometres and searchers said their work could take two days.

There were 213 passengers and 10 crew on board the plane, Thai

officials said. It had taken off from Bangkok where it stopped during a flight from Hong Kong to Vienna.

Initial reports said the plane caught fire before exploding, said Colonel Narong Kulavimonpratep, chief police investigator at the site northwest of the Thai provincial town of Suphan Buri.

"There was a fireball in the sky, then a big boom," a witness said.

Sergeant Prayuth Sai-Ngern said he saw fire engulf the plane "like a firework rocket" as it

plunged to earth.

"It lit up the dark sky," he said.

The crash, Thailand's worst aviation disaster, was the first involving a Boeing 767 since the twin-engine jet's introduction in 1982, a spokesman for Boeing said.

The company said it was sending crash investigators to Thailand.

Rescue workers said the largest piece of wreckage was two metres square.

They said they found 80 bodies around pieces of the fuselage and 30 bodies near a part of the nose section found for kilometres away.

Among the passengers were 34 Austrians, including leading financial analyst Professor Clemens-August Andreae, and a party of students and lecturers from Innsbruck University.

The passengers — 125 of them embarking in Hong Kong and 88 in Bangkok — including Swiss, Australians, Thais, Britons and other nationalities. A full passenger list was still being drawn up.

It was Thailand's second major disaster in less than a year.

Last November, 38 people were killed, mostly foreign tourists, when a Bangkok Airways turboprop crashed on the southern island of Koh Samui.

King condoles Waldheim

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday telephoned his condolences to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim expressing his deep sadness over the loss of human life when an Austrian airliner crashed in Thailand Sunday night. The plane with 223 people on board, exploded into a fireball before crashing into a jungle hilltop in Thailand with no survivors.

Egyptian Brotherhood warns against peace with Israel

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The Muslim Brotherhood Monday attacked U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker's efforts to settle the Palestinian problem peacefully and warned Arab states not to negotiate with Israel.

Mohammad Hamed Ahul Nasr, the Brotherhood's top leader, said in a press statement that Arab countries should unite to give Palestine back to the Palestinians, an indirect call for Israel's liquidation.

Palestine was under British mandate before the creation of the Jewish state in 1948.

"All the political plans that are proposed on the Arab and international fronts for a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian

problem are projects which seek to liquidate the issue ... in the final analysis, the plans serve the Jewish enemy's strategy," the statement said.

He did not single out Baker by name. But he was clearly referring to the secretary's four trips to the Middle East since mid-March which represent the only current major effort for a negotiated Palestinian settlement.

"The Muslim Brotherhood completely rejects all political projects proposed to resolve the Palestinian issue," Abul Nasr said.

The Muslim Brotherhood, founded in 1928, was disbanded in 1954 after some of its leading activists were charged with an

abortive attempt to assassinate then-President Gamal Abdul Nasser. It returned to the political scene under Anwar Sadat, Nasser's successor, in the mid-1970s but it remains officially banned.

It boycotted last year's parliamentary elections after having been represented in the previous chamber as part of the opposition Socialist Labour Party.

The Brotherhood statement also rejected the announcement by the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council that they are willing to attend a regional conference to discuss peace with Israel. The Gulf states also agreed to hold direct contacts with the Jewish state on non-political issues.

Levy said he expected Baker to take steps remedying any impression that Israel was the obstacle to U.S. peace efforts, adding: "He knows it is not so." If Baker intended to blame Israel, however, "it is very serious," Levy said.

He added Syria and other Arab states were to blame for rejecting direct negotiations with Israel. Egypt is the only Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel. The secretary said Arabs also had to act for peace talks to take place but he defended the Arab positions on many points.

Washington's efforts to convene a regional peace conference have stalled over procedural issues.



King receives Ecevit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received former Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit. The King and Mr. Ecevit reviewed the situation in the region in the light of the latest developments. King Hussein and Mr. Ecevit discussed also Arab-Turkish relations in general and Jordanian Turkish relations in particular. (Petra photo)



Elias Hrawi

Lebanese assembly ratifies treaty

BEIRUT (R) — Parliament ratified a treaty on Monday committing Lebanon to close cooperation with its powerful neighbour Syria.

The pact was agreed to in principle 18 months ago as part of a deal among Muslim and Christian factions which has since ended fighting in a 16-year civil war and set central government on the road to recovery under Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi.

Israel has strongly criticised the treaty, saying it allows Syria to swallow its tiny neighbour.

Forty-five of parliament's 67 deputies voted to ratify.

Only one, Albert Mukhaiber, voted against, saying it would give Israel an excuse to retain a buffer strip it controls along the southern border.

Prime Minister Omar Karame told the assembly the treaty of brotherhood, coordination and cooperation reflected "historic and geographic facts" that bind the two countries.

"Lebanon can't live in isolation from Syria... the more the relations between us are strengthened, the more they will reflect positively on Lebanon and the Lebanese in terms of security, stability and prosperity," Karame said.

The six-hour parliamentary session was attended by most members of Hrawi's government. Two Christian members who had voiced reservations about the treaty, Roger Dih and George Saadeh, were absent.

Civil war began in 1975. Syria which sees eastern Lebanon as a potential back door to Damascus for Israeli forces, intervened within a year and has 40,000 troops still in the country controlling about two-thirds of its area.

The treaty calls for cooperation in political, military, security, economic and cultural affairs.

Hrawi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad signed the pact in Damascus last week. The Syrian parliament is due to ratify it this week.

Kuwaiti defence minister in Damascus

DAMASCUS (AP) — Kuwait's defence minister, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, arrived in Syria on Monday for talks expected to focus on Gulf security. In an arrival statement, Sheikh Ali said he was carrying a message from the Kuwaiti emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, for Syrian President Hafez Assad. He did not reveal its contents. Asked about cooperation between the Kuwaiti military and other forces in the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf, Sheikh Ali acknowledged that Kuwait still needed outside help. "Kuwait, as a small and damaged nation, cannot confront Iraq, especially as there are still some worrying (Iraqi) statements," he said. He noted that Kuwait has held talks with Syria, Egypt and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council "for the continued presence of Arab forces in Kuwait and for a period which will be agreed upon later on."

Pan-Arabists discuss nation's ills

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Pan-Arab national conference opened here Monday to address the challenges facing the Arab Nation in the aftermath of the Gulf war, and human rights issues in the Arab World.

In an opening speech to the conference, the second of its kind, Dr. Kheir Eddin Hassib, an Iraqi director of the Beirut-based Arab Unity Studies Centre reviewed recent developments in the region including the Gulf crisis and the war that followed, stressing that the time of the conference comes at a critical period in the history of the Arab World. The first conference organised by the Arab Unity Centre was held in Tunis, in 1990.

Dr. Hassib urged the participants to live up to their expected responsibilities as Arab thinkers and intellectuals and play an ac-

tive role in formulating ideas and plans, including ways to healing Arab wounds and ending inter-Arab differences.

Over 100 participants from many Arab countries take part in the three-day conference. The participants are independent thinkers and intellectuals and hold no official office in their countries. Most of the Gulf states except for Qatar had no representatives.

A number of working papers are being submitted to the conference by the unity centre and the participants. One working paper presented at the first session was on indicated private Arab investment. The paper revealed that Arab investment totalled \$227 million in 1987 but dropped to \$168 million in 1988. The paper also revealed that financial operations by Arab development funds ranged between \$500 million to

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinian factions reconcile in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — Supporters and opponents of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat held reconciliation talks in Damascus on Monday to try to end more than seven years of animosity.

Khaled Al Fahoum, leader of the anti-Arafat Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), told Reuters he met a PLO delegation led by Farouk Kaddoumi, chief of the PLO's political department, to discuss how to heal the rift.

Fahoum, former speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's parliament in exile, said the Palestine Liberation Organisation delegation welcomed a recent PNSF call for all Palestinian factions to unite.

"They welcomed the initiative, and we agreed to hold further contacts to enforce the PNSF offer which calls for the setting up of a joint committee grouping representatives of all factions to form a new PNC," Fahoum said.

The PLO delegation, visiting Damascus for the first time since 1988, agreed during talks with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara to end their dispute with Syria, which is home to several anti-Arafat Palestinian factions.

Syria backed a rebellion against Arafat in 1983 but relations improved last year when Damascus released hundreds of Palestinians from Syrian jails.

The PNSF's reconciliation call followed increased international efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. All the parties are trying to secure a place in any proposed talks.

The PNSF groups the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Fateh Uprising which rebelled against Arafat in 1983, the Sa'iq and the Communist Party.

Fahoum said the talks with the PLO delegation also covered the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

He said both sides wanted the United Nations, the European Community, the United States and the Soviet Union to attend any peace conference, which should observe the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and to an independent state.

The United States and the Soviet Union have been seeking to coax Arabs and Israelis to the conference table.

Israel has said it would not accept a U.N. role in the peace conference. It refuses to talk to the PLO which it terms a terrorist organisation.

Palestinian sources said they were prepared to be flexible on representation and would agree to a delegation elected freely and under international supervision from the Israeli-occupied territories.

Palestinian sources said the PLO delegation would meet President Hafez Al Assad before ending its visit to Syria.

Israel not meeting conditions for prisoners swap — Hizbollah

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The new leader of Hizbollah confirmed Monday that his group is holding two Israeli soldiers but said the Jewish state has not yet met conditions for a prisoner swap.

Abbas Musawi, elected last week as head of the fundamentalist Shiite Muslim party, said in a radio interview that Hizbollah demanded the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel in exchange for the Israeli captives.

He said, however, that Israel was willing to release only Lebanese.

In Israel, Defence Minister Moshe Arens voiced optimism over prospects for a prisoner exchange.

"For the first time there is talk about the possibility and readiness to come to an agreement with us," Arens told Israel radio. "So there is room for a certain and limited degree of optimism."

Israel has expressed willingness to swap prisoners but has repeatedly insisted on "signs of life" of its missing servicemen. It has urged that the International Committee of the Red Cross be allowed to see the Israeli captives to determine their condition.

Musawi's remarks to the leftist Voice of the People Radio station marked the first time in three years that Hizbollah has publicly

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Premier, officials discuss Zarqa Free Zone issues

ZARQA (Petra) — Problems related to investors at the Zarqa Free Zone and difficulties encountered in customs procedures there were discussed at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and attended by Finance Minister Basel Jarrah and other senior officials, including Customs Department Director Mahdi Al Farhan and Free Zones Corporation Director Fahd Al Qudus.

The prime minister was briefed on the various issues that impede the process of trade and investment at the free zone and called for solving these issues by cutting down on routine and reducing the lengthy procedures at the customs office to save time and encourage investments.

To help solve the problems, the prime minister ordered the formation of an ad hoc committee which is to submit recommendations to him, in the coming two days, before further action can be taken.

The prime minister listened to investors' demands and issued directives related to them.

Later, he toured the various installations and the free market area where incoming cars are parked for re-export purposes.

He was told by the Free Zones Corporation director that the number of investors in the Zarqa Free Zone was on the increase. The director said later that the prime minister's visit reflected the government's keenness on solving issues that impede the development of the free zones in Jordan.

The finance minister later chaired a meeting to discuss means of implementing the prime minister's directives through a number of sub-committees.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Monday tours the pavilions of the first general exhibition organised by the Vocational Training Corporation at Amman Municipality (Petra photo)

Vocational training centres help combat unemployment — Badran

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Monday that the government had no alternative but to increase the number of vocational training centres to provide training in different trades, and at different levels, so that the country could have sufficient skilled workforce.

"I absolutely believe that vocational training is necessary not only during the summer school season, but at permanent centres and in all areas," the prime minister said after opening the first general exhibition organised by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) at Amman Municipality.

The exhibition displays samples of products by 15 vocational training centres in Jordan and it will last for four days.

"Vocational training centres mark the starting point in combating the problem of unemployment in the Kingdom and we are in need of all expertise and skilled labour that can build up the country and promote its progress and development," said the prime minister.

He said that the government would therefore provide all forms of support to the VTC to enable it to expand its programmes and activities in all governorates.

The prime minister toured the various parts of the exhibition inspecting items on display. These included production by trainees involved in wood work, decoration, construction, electricity, hotel management, textile and knitting, hair dressing, bakeries, metal moulding, central heating, sanitation, air conditioning and refrigeration, welding and metallurgy, auto mechanics and repair of car body.

The prime minister signed the exhibition register wishing the VTC further progress and expressing appreciation to those in charge of training programmes.

Dr. Ahmad Atwan, VTC director general, noted that since the establishment of the VTC in 1976 a total of 52,000 trainees had graduated from its centres. He said that VTC now runs 21 centres, eight of which are for girls, and the products of the trainees are being put up for sale to the public.

Government grant to farmers will help boost production

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government announced Monday that it is giving a financial grant to the Jordanian Farmers Federation and helping provide fertilisers at nominal prices in a bid to give impetus to the agricultural sector and increase production.

The government will grant the Jordanian Farmers Federation (JFF) JD 500,000 to boost its operations and enable the federation to buy farming requirements which will, in turn, be offered to the farmers at reduced prices.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said in his announcement.

In cooperation with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), the government will be providing the federation with fertilisers which would later be distributed to farmers at special low prices in a bid to encourage them to increase the output, said the prime minister at a meeting in his office with a JFF team led by its Chairman Talal Al Ghazzawi.

Mr. Badran said that the government was viewing with concern all problems encountered by the Jordanian farmers, realised the need for reducing the cost of farming requirements and would try to solve the problems.

Mr. Badran told the team that there was need for activating the federation's activities through constant contacts with the farmers and through extensive agricultural extension services.

The prime minister said that the concerned government departments, including the Ministry of Agriculture and its affiliated research institutions, will be ready to provide expertise and guidance to all farmers in Jordan.

The prime minister said that the JFF should not be totally reliant on the government, but should be energetic and self-supportive and always responding to the needs of the farmers.

"For this to happen, the farmers should have confidence in their federation, which, in turn, must have an active and meaningful role in the agricultural production process," he said.

"The government gives due care to the farmers who are closer to the land than other citizens in Jordan and constitute a majority among other trades and professions, but who have lately faced hard times," the prime minister pointed out.

Farmers of the Jordan Valley region claim they sustained JD 60 million in losses caused by damages to their crops resulting from polluted water in the King Talal Dam. The government has set up a committee to investigate the cause of the damages which affected large areas of farmlands.

In the past winter a rain-storm caused heavy damage to farmlands in the southern governorates of Tafleeh, Karak and Maan, and the government allocated JD 1 million to cover the cost of repair to bridges, agricultural roads, culverts and other facilities.

At the meeting with the JFF team, the prime minister said that the government was keen on developing the Kingdom's agricultural wealth was a national duty for every citizen, he said that "it is time for Jordan to be able to provide food to others not merely attaining food self-sufficiency."

Mr. Badran heard the views of the federation as outlined by Mr. Ghazzawi who referred to the soaring prices of agricultural inputs.

"The JFF, which now groups 6,000 members, feels that it is incapable of performing its duty due to the accumulating difficulties and problems, especially the financial difficulties and the poor return from agricultural projects," Mr. Ghazzawi noted.

Mr. Ghazzawi demanded that the government speed up the passage of a new law endorsing the newly formed federation so that it can encompass many other farmers, in various regions of the country, and not only those in the Jordan Valley. The present federation law was passed in 1974, and in the view of Mr. Ghazzawi, it can by no means cater to the needs of present-day farming.

Following the meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Ghazzawi said in a statement that the prime minister had expressed his full understanding of the farmer's difficulties and sufferings and was prompt in responding to their demands.

Mr. Ghazzawi said that the JD 500,000 promised by the government to the federation would contribute most positively towards helping the farmers promote their production and alleviate their sufferings.

Three hanged for murder

AMMAN (J.T.) Three criminals were hanged at Swaga prison south of here, in the presence of representatives of the criminal court, the Public Security Department and the chief justice.

Two of the executed, identified only as M.A. and N.S., were convicted for committing murders, while the third, who also committed murder, had been convicted for other felonies and robberies before his final crime that led to his execution.

The third criminal, identified by the police as S.D., was found to have murdered the wife of his uncle in the process of stealing her jewels which he sold to local jewellers for money to pay for debts incurred in gambling.

According to court sources, the murderer had for some time worked as an employee for the Civil Services Consumer Corporation, but was fired after committing some thefts and acts of fraud.

Finding himself unemployed, the criminal turned to gambling and lost large sums of money which he had obtained by selling gold pieces that belonged to his wife.

According to the court, the man continued to gamble and lose more and more, a process which eventually led him to his uncle's home where he stole some jewellery and sold it in the local market for JD 380.

When trying to steal more jewellery, the criminal was confronted by his uncle's wife; he hit her hard on the head and killed her to silence her.

According to the court, the criminal stole jewellery and cash from his uncle's home which he eventually turned over to his friends at the gambling table. The court was told that his friends had turned him in after hearing about the crime.

This led to his arrest and his admission to committing the crime.

Princess Basma, Indonesian guest discuss cooperation in voluntary services

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday met with the wife of the visiting Indonesian trade minister, Mrs. Adita Arifin Siregar, to discuss Indonesian-Jordanian cooperation in voluntary and charitable services and later accompanied the distinguished guest on a tour of charitable organisations.

Mrs. Arifin Siregar, who heads a number of women voluntary organisations in her country, was briefed by the Princess on projects conducted by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) to promote the role of women in socio-economic development in Jordan and to provide services to children.

person to QAF's Board of Trustees, accompanied her guest on a tour of social and voluntary organisations and vocational training centres for women. They also visited a centre in Madaba where women are involved in manufacturing rugs using local materials, and visited the National Ceramics Centre, operated by QAF, where they were briefed on its operations.

The Princess and her guest met with a group of Jordanian women for a general discussion on the status and role of women in Jordan.

Mrs. Arifin Siregar said she was impressed with what she had seen and expressed hope that voluntary associations in Indonesia and QAF would initiate cooperation and exchange expertise.

The Princess told the visitor she would like to look into the Indonesian women's activities for the purpose of benefiting from their experiments.

Islamic academy's chief to review policy, curricula

AMMAN (Petra) — The Board of Directors of the Islamic Academy for Sciences will hold a meeting in the second half of June to review the academy's policies which aim at finding sound curricula for sciences and technology in the Islamic World.

The academy's Director-General Anwar Al Bilbeisi said the meeting will discuss mechanisms for the academy's fifth conference which will be held next December to discuss ways of developing manpower working in scientific and technological fields in Muslim countries.

He said that more than 150 experts and scholars representing the bulk of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) member states and several regional and international organisations would take part in the conference.

The conference, Mr. Bilbeisi said, will continue discussion of topics tackled by participants in the fourth conference held in Antalya, Turkey, last year under the title "The Transfer of Technology for the Development of the Islamic World."

According to Mr. Bilbeisi, several international organisations have prepared studies on the issue of transferring technology to Islamic countries. He expressed hope that decision-makers in Muslim countries would benefit from these studies.

The Islamic academy is an independent non-governmental organisation established by the OIC in Amman in 1986.

Indonesian trade minister visits Sahab Industrial City, holds talks with industrialists

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting Indonesian Minister of Trade Arifin Siregar Monday visited the Sahab Industrial City, on the outskirts of Amman, and was briefed on the types of industries set up there and the facilities offered to investors by the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

Accompanying the visiting minister on his tour was JIEC Director General Fayez Suheimat who said that incentives were being offered to attract foreign investment in industry and to encourage production and joint ventures which can produce for the local and foreign markets.

The tour took the Indonesian minister to a number of companies which export commodities to other countries, including a carpet plant.

Following the tour, the Indonesian minister met Jordanian businessmen at the Amman Chamber of Industry and discussed bilateral cooperation in industry.

The chamber's President Khaldoun Abu Hassan expressed hope that the visit would open new avenues of close cooperation between Jordanian and Indonesian businessmen and industrialists.

The Indonesian minister briefed the Jordanian businessmen on the types of products Indonesia can supply to the Jordanian markets and was informed by his audience about the products that can be sold in Indonesia.

The two sides agreed to hold further contacts in order to define the types of products which the two countries can exchange.

The Indonesian minister and his delegation earlier visited Al Hasa Phosphate Mines, in southern Jordan, and were briefed on production plans. Indonesia is one of the Asian countries that import Jordanian phosphate.

Taxi driver charged with robbery

AMMAN (J.T.) — A taxi driver was apprehended after stealing \$8,500 from a woman under threat with a switch knife, and the case has now been referred to the criminal court in Amman.

A report in the local press Monday said that the young woman had a girl friend who had learnt about the cash in the bag and told the taxi driver who later proved to be her accomplice in the robbery.

The victim had confided in her friend telling her that she carried \$11,000 in her bag and was heading for a bank in downtown Amman, according to the report. It said that the driver and the other girl accompanied their victim in the car which did not head towards the bank, but to an outlying area, near Maqablein, south east of here, where the driver pulled a switch knife threatening to kill the woman unless she handed him part of the cash.

After taking the money, the driver left his victim stranded on the road and fled, only to be later apprehended by the police who retrieved the stolen cash.

In another development, Al Ra'i Arabic daily reported Monday that the Amman First Instance Court had started examining the case of a woman expatriate who came here from Kuwait in her car which contained a great amount of cash. According to the report, the woman had parked the car in the garage under her brother's home with JD 1 million stashed inside, only to discover later that the money and some jewellery which was also left in the car had been stolen.

The report said that the police had found the culprit and retrieved the stolen money and jewellery.

Jordanian donations to help Iraqis

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Islamic Committee for Supporting Iraq Hamdi Al Tabaa said the committee imported 2,000 tonnes of flour and shipped them to Iraq last week. He said the Iraqi Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs would handle the process of distributing flour to the needy in Iraq.

The committee purchased the whole quantity for \$500,000 which were donated to the committee by Jordanians at home and abroad.

Jordan, Germany discuss cooperation in forestry

AMMAN (J.T.) — A workshop on operational planning and monitoring has been inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh May 26, at the Department of Afforestation and Forests. The workshop, which is organised by the Forestry Department and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) will last from May 26 till May 28, 1991.

This workshop marks the third phase of technical cooperation between Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of forestry. The first phase of cooperation started in 1974 with the emphasis on forestation and nursery management. To assure the adequate development of the resources established, the second phase dealt with the protection and maintenance of forestation areas and the natural forests. As a logical step, the third phase of the Jordanian-German cooperation deals with the managerial strengthening of the forestry department which includes the improvement of its planning capacities, management of forestry resources, education and training and the establishment of a forest tree and centre.

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Izzeddin, publishers hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin Monday met with a delegation representing the founding committee of the Jordanian Publishers' Federation and discussed with them issues of concern to publishers in Jordan. The delegation members briefed the minister on the aims of establishing the publishers' federation. Mr. Izzeddin pledged to remove obstacles in the way of the publishing industry in Jordan.

Italian travel agents 'happy' with visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Italian travel agents group who visited Jordan recently have left Amman saying that they were satisfied with the trip to Jordan, "especially that it represents the first peace trip to the region after the touristic ban was held off the Middle East region." The group was invited by the Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian, in cooperation with Viaggi Del Buon Consiglio Travel Agency in Milano with the aim of reviving the tourism industry in the Kingdom badly affected by the Gulf crisis.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monographs, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 5 p.m.)

FILM

★ Arabic film entitled "Rayya & Suhaila" at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Wrong end of justice

THE EXECUTION Sunday of three Jordanians convicted of first degree murder brings to the fore the entire subject of capital punishment and the manner it has been administered in the country. To begin with, Jordan is treaty obligated to phase out capital punishment under the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The human rights culture that has been cultivated and nurtured by the U.N. system during the past decades calls on all states which still invoke such a punishment to abolish it, as soon as possible, since it is too inhuman, cruel and prone to irreversible error. ICCPR specifically stipulates that its provisions shall not be invoked to delay or prevent the abolition of capital punishment by any state party to the Covenant.

But this is not the whole issue as far as Jordan is concerned. Even more cruel and inhuman is the way the capital punishment in the country is being carried out. A clear and prime example is the way the so-called honour crimes are being treated in the country's courts of law. When a young and hot blooded man kills his sister or niece or daughter after suspecting her of "the wrong" sexual behaviour, the courts of the country tend to be unduly lenient towards him. In the process the murdered women or girls are systematically denied protection of the law including an opportunity to rebut the accusations being arbitrarily levelled against them. As a result, many innocent females go on being murdered in Jordan under the guise or pretext of "honour protection". In almost all such situations, the murderer is the prosecutor, the judge and the executioner, all in one. This carnage has got to stop lest the country drifts back to the Jahiliyah era when innocent female infants were killed upon birth for fear that their "honour" may one day be tarnished. Islam, to be sure, changed all that and gave the word "honour" a more enlightened meaning that has yet to dawn on even some of our contemporaries.

In his historic speech on the occasion of the graduation of a new class of senior army officers from the Royal War College last Wednesday, His Majesty King Hussein warned against the return to the Jahiliyah days, both literally and figuratively speaking. Surely the King was thinking of more than inter-Arab conflicts and wars when he cautioned against the drift to the pre-Islamic days. He must have had in mind the broader connotations of the expression.

In our midst in Jordan there are some manifestations of the reversion to the era of ignorance and darkness, and the murder of innocent women and girls in the name of family honour is surely one of them. No one would suggest that promiscuity or illicit sexual behaviour should be encouraged or promoted. On the contrary, the Kingdom prides itself on the faithful adherence to religion and tradition in such matters. What cannot be tolerated or promoted, however, is double standards in the application of criminal justice in the country. In modern states such as Jordan, only the state may prosecute the accused and punish the guilty after due process of the law has been administered by a fair and independent judiciary. Anything short of that would put the country squarely in the days of Jahiliyah. When the state remains lenient towards those who take the law into their own hand, it would become an accomplice in the restoration of the days of the darkness amongst us.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Monday dwelt on the theme in His Majesty King Hussein's address to the Royal War College in which he discussed the new world order and the need for the Arabs to deal with the new order with open minds and objectivity. The paper echoed the King's call for concerted efforts and close cooperation on the part of the Arab countries as the only means for ending the weakness of the Arab World and absorbing the new dimensions of the world order. The paper noted that the Gulf crisis had caused a deep breach in Arab ranks and disrupted solidarity among the Arab states and said that keenness on retaining Arab existence and protecting national interest lies in cohesion and solidarity, otherwise the whole Arab World will be exposed to dismemberment. Unless the Arabs take speedy moves to heal the wounds caused by the crisis, they can by no means find their status among the world community of nations, said the paper. The spirit of the new world order, the paper continued, calls for respecting the interests of other countries and requires diligent work and concerted efforts to preserve some kind of uniformity among the Arab states, the paper added. The paper expressed the view that the Arabs can by no means win the respect of the world unless they are united and can prove their ability to play a meaningful role in human civilisation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised the government for endorsing policies adopted by the Ministries of Social Development and Education with regard to dealings with women. A reception hosted by the prime minister on Independence Day anniversary was attended by two or three women only among a multitude of men, something which was totally contrary to previous years' practices, says Sultan Al Hattab in his column. We had thought that the policy adopted by the Ministries of Social Development and Education were isolated from those adopted by the government, but we were proved wrong when we saw no women at this important reception, says the writer. It should be noted that women as well as men are responsible for economic and social development in the country; and excluding women from social or economic events reflects backward tendency, says the writer. He notes that Jordan is a society for men and women, and not men alone, and each member of the community has equal rights like those of all others as supported by the constitution and the national charter. The writer says that Jordan now stands at a crossroads watching certain groups tampering with the rights of women who should be considered as full partners in the socio-economic development process.

The View From Fourth Circle

A lesson in Middle East history and humanity

By Rami G. Khouri

THREE months after the end of the Gulf war, the situation in the Middle East is quickly reasserting itself, forcing all concerned parties to deal with the realities of the region, rather than simply to wave ribbons and flags in the fantasy world of Washington and London. When the cash register coalition insisted on liberating Kuwait by military force, instead of allowing inter-Arab diplomacy to run its course, the world was lectured about principles and morality. Today, reflecting the logic of militarism and the colonial habits of British and American officialdom, Kuwait is a very different place than that which we were told about by high-priced American public relations agencies. The fantasy has not come true. The frog remains a frog, and the prince is not yet born.

In Kuwait today, the people's hearts are full of anger, and their hands are full of guns. The courts are full of embarrassing show trials. The leadership is full of fear and anxiety, terrified about the prospect of sharing power with its people. And the air bases and army camps of Kuwait are full of American soldiers. The fantasy land has been turned into a grotesque nightmare.

The much-touted security arrangement which the Syrian and Egyptians would work out with the Gulf states — presumably with considerable amounts of cash changing hands — appears unlikely to materialise. Egypt seems more and more marginalised as a political force in the Middle East, strategically and militarily neutralised by its separate peace with Israel and politically lobotomised by its dependence on the United States. Its leaders wander around Europe asking to have their debts forgiven. In time, they will have to wander among their own people, asking for forgiveness for having allowed Egypt to sink into its pit of mismanagement and dependency.

Jordan, which was ostracised when the region was defined by war, is once again a central player when the talk turns to peace. The presidents of Egypt and the United States get in touch with the Jordanian leadership. The PLO is also back at centre-stage, naming the negotiators and calling the tune in the talks with James Baker.

Syria and the PLO show important signs of reconciliation, which will seriously trouble those in Israel, the West and the Gulf who bet on the PLO's losing out after the war. The Syrian-PLO feud has gone on for nearly a decade, and neither side has been able to subdue the other. The unspoken is now spoken: it is time to stop the political silliness, and to devise policies that reflect the grassroots support of the Palestinian and Syrian people, and of all other nationalist Arab forces throughout the region.

As attempts continue to start Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, greater pressures will be exerted on Syria and other Arabs to make further concessions to Israel, at a time when Israel's position remains defiantly intransigent — to the point where the mild-mannered James Baker went so far as to publicly criticise Israel during his meetings with the American Congress. The reality of our world is very different from the fantasy that was generated during the Gulf crisis and war, when people stopped using their heads and put their faith instead in the power of bombs and money. They are finding out now that bombs and money are false and retributive gods that only lead you to a fake paradise of ghosts and devils, where money does not matter and bombs have no meaning.

During the Gulf crisis, the mercantile imperative of the cash register coalition prevailed for a moment. We were not surprised to see the British — those old and tired imperial poodles panting and pawing at the doorstep of the American dog food empire —

goaded on the Americans to fight. But it was sad to see otherwise genteel and thoughtful people such as Australians, Canadians and Italians get caught up in the madness, and send forces to confront Iraq. It was equally strange to see Egypt, Syria and Morocco line up with the Americans. Washington thought it had put together a true coalition, in which political partners embraced one another in a show of deep and eternal love and companionship. But, we see today that this was not a long-term love affair; it was just an old-fashioned square dance, in which the fast moving partners touched one another momentarily, grasped hands, twirled once or twice in a mutually beneficial but very brief movement that allowed them to stay on their feet, and then separated and went their separate ways, perhaps never to touch again.

All that is almost over now, though strong emotions still prevail. On the American side, we are struck by the dangerous combination of political naivete and military power. Historically speaking, the American leadership moves around the ancient lands of the Middle East like a child in a museum — not there of its own volition, hoping to finish and go home, and somehow awed but always slightly perplexed. We also still feel deep contempt for Great Britain's ability to sustain a Middle Eastern track record of duplicity and shameless, exploitative commercialism under the thin guise of diplomacy for nearly the entire 20th century — "jolly good show, old chap, give those ragheads another cup of tea while we prepare to sell them some more gold-plated falcons that glow in the dark."

All of the frenzy which entered the region with the half a million foreign forces is slowly disappearing, returning home with them. We have only pockets of weirdness left, in places like Zakho and Dahuk, places which we had always known of, but which were very far from Arkansas. When the Americans and their European posse finally leave, the full emotional and political forces which truly define the Middle East will make themselves felt once again. This is what is already happening vis-a-vis Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

The Arab side has made considerable concessions and shown maximum flexibility in responding to the American-Soviet peace initiative, but the sacred central principle remains that of negotiating land-for-peace on the basis of international legitimacy, meaning U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The Americans assume that the Arabs will make further concessions — and, if the last nine months have been anything to go by, whatever the Americans say, think or do will be dutifully repeated in London within, oh, 20 to 30 minutes at most. Speed is one of the characteristics of post-imperial obsequiousness.

But Arab flexibility should not be mistaken for submission. The reality is that we have fought against western imperial subjugation and manipulation for nearly a century, and we are not about to stop now simply because for a few months our skies were raining down with American bombs, Arab oil money and British trade fairs. The grassroots sentiments of the Arab people have started to reassert themselves, and above all they call for dignity and justice. The root denial of Arab dignity and justice this century has been in Palestine — not surprisingly, initially fostered by the British, and then perpetuated and financed by the United States after 1948.

Those in the West who believe that the force of their guns can bring about any political development they wish in this region will soon find out the stubborn strength of ancient Arab communities striving for dignity and justice. The West was very moved — or

maybe just badly shamed and embarrassed — by the plight of the Kurds. The fact is, the Kurds are only one of many communities around the Middle East who seek to formulate workable arrangements of national identity and viability. Guns and money, whether from the West or from within our region, can only momentarily suppress the demands of the people of the region for national stability, political identity and human rights. In the long run, the quest for justice and dignity will triumph, because it is stronger than imperial will — as the the Americans themselves proved just over 200 years ago, in their revolutionary war against the army of the king of England.

The Syrian, Egyptian and Moroccan governments are finding out that if political policy in this region cuts against the grain of grassroots sentiment for very long, it will be challenged by the will of the Arab people. The will of the people is not for convoluted and mercantile coalitions with the imperial lords of the West, but rather is for a life of equity, identity, honour and peace. That can be achieved by resolving the key problems facing our region — problems which existed before the Gulf crisis, and which have only been exacerbated by it. There are five main ones to be tackled:

1) The national rights of the Palestinians, resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict in a manner which satisfies the legitimate rights of all parties, and implementing all United Nations resolutions in the area with equal vigour and force, according to a single standard of morality and law.

2) The severe economic disparities within the Arab World, where per capita income ranges from lows of under \$600 in Somalia, Mauritania, Yemen and Sudan, to a high of \$16,000 in Qatar and the UAE.

3) The lack of democracy, human rights and political pluralism in most Arab countries, which prevents policy-formulation based on the real will of the people, and allows autocratic rulers and non-accountable power elites to pursue whimsical, wasteful and regressive policies.

4) The lack of inter-Arab economic and social integration and complementarities, and the inability of people to give life and expression to their sentiment of belonging to a broader Arab national community.

5) The tradition of Western powers interfering in internal Arab affairs, and maintaining the Arab World in a state of fragmentation, tension and dependence.

If these five issues could be addressed and resolved in a meaningful manner, the people of the Middle East and the Arab World would finally have an opportunity to live in justice, peace and stability. If the West only chooses to help us deal with one or two issues, and leaves the other untouched, the region will not look forward to stability, but rather to continued turmoil and violence.

As the intensity of Arab sentiments on these matters now starts to make itself felt, the West will get a quick refresher course in Middle Eastern politics, history and humanity — a landscape in which emperors come and go, but human identity remains, and the quest for dignity and national integrity only grows stronger with every generation. It's happening all around us this week. Watch it and enjoy it, and above all learn from it, because it, and not American and British troops handing out cookies in Zakho, is the human reality of the Middle East.

Gulf Arabs find themselves as regional military force

By Eric Hall
Reuters

RIYADH — Gulf Arabs are gradually waking up to the idea that the destruction of Iraqi military power may have left them with the most modern, and arguably most effective, military machine in the Gulf region.

The growing perception that Saudi Arabia and its five oil-producing allies are a regional military force rather than a vulnerable focus of western strategic and economic fears is changing past assumptions about post-war Gulf security, senior military officials and analysts say.

"The Gulf Arabs can easily defend themselves now in a conventional sense. Militarily, their tail is up after the baptism of fire against Iraq," said a western defence official visiting Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia alone, with almost 200 sophisticated western combat aircraft and western-trained pilots, now possesses the biggest combat-tested air force in the region.

"They flew more than their fair share of sorties during the war. They proved themselves and their air force. Their confidence is very high," said a military analyst.

As an alliance the six-Gulf Cooperation Council states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar have more than 400 aircraft, almost 1,000 main battle tanks, and after the Gulf war possibly more than 250,000 trained troops, the analysts said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

They are also the only countries in the region that have the money and the political access to the West to easily acquire more western arms and technology.

To all intents and purposes, the Iraqi army after its Gulf war defeat can be discounted as a regional power. Iran has 600,000 men under arms, 500 tanks, and possibly over 200 aircraft, if it includes up to 100

Iraqi military planes which Western intelligence said flew there during the war in mysterious circumstances, and were never given back.

"But Iran suffers serious spares shortages and flying most of its planes effectively is beyond its capabilities," said a Western diplomat.

Yemen, the only non-GCC country on the Arabian peninsula, has a large but old-fashioned army with outdated Soviet equipment, save for some U.S. tanks. Its economy is largely dependent on exports and migrant labour to the rich GCC states.

The result is an increasing realisation in GCC capitals, with the possible exception of Kuwait, that there is no need for foreign ground forces, Arab or western, to remain on GCC soil, the sources said.

This is a change from just after the U.S.-led coalition's defeat of Iraq in occupied Kuwait, when the GCC seemed to think it would need significant outside help.

In December, the GCC said

it was talking to Iran about a joint security framework. This was a major reversal of past attitudes of caution and mistrust revolutionary Iran.

After the war, Riyadh mended a four-year break in diplomatic ties with Tehran, but in the past two months talk of joint security with Iran around the GCC has tailed off.

In March, just after the war, the GCC signed a joint declaration with Gulf war allies Syria and Egypt. The important paragraph read that the signatories: "Consider that the presence of the Egyptian and Syrian forces in the territory of the ... Arab countries in the Gulf region ... represents a nucleus for an Arab peace force which is ... to guarantee the security and safety of the Arab countries in the Gulf region."

But Egypt recalled all its GCC-based forces this month and diplomats said the agreement appeared to be compromised.

"Egypt and Syria undoubtedly expected to have substantial troops on the Ara-

bian peninsula. But the Saudis may never have thought there would be a permanent ground presence, and certainly not in Saudi Arabia," said a senior western diplomat.

Expectations of future cooperation with western forces have also calmed considerably in the past few weeks.

At the beginning of May, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney discussed joint exercises and training with GCC forces, and building up military stockpiles in the Gulf to allow U.S. forces to return quickly, if

necessary. But military officials said there was no rush. "In some GCC states it will be no cooperation, but in others only a change in the degree of cooperation we had before," said one official.

However, GCC states would like western navies to remain. Both Washington and London have said they would retain their long-term navy patrols. These include only a few surface warships apiece but are capable of outmatching any regional navy.

LETTERS

How about the Arabs?

To the Editor:

GOD works in mysterious ways.

And so, it seems, does the mind of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Having recovered at last from the paralysing attack of deep sadness during Gulf War II, the Peruvian is back in the peace-business. And while other members of the elite club of nations have slowly come to denounce more or less loudly though the illegitimate Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories as "obstacles to peace," the U.N. chief has traced quite a different one of these; the 16-year-old U.N. resolution equating Zionism to racism.

His contemplation about rescinding this resolution is very interesting because it goes quite well with the "new world order" and the "new thinking" towards the Middle East. Since the question whether Zionism is or is not racism has been intensively discussed and answered by the international community and since Zionism did not change its claims or practices, the resolution is still valid. So why recall it or even reverse it? To create a better feeling in Israel towards the U.N.? Well, this really is new thinking. Because quite recently we heard that the duty of the international body was to secure world peace by strictly implementing international legitimacy "with all necessary means" and "no appeasement." And it worked, it really did, we saw it happen for 43 bloody days and nights. But then, those who got the implementing and the international legitimacy with not just "all necessary means" but rather nearly all available means and most certainly without any "appeasement" were just Arabs. The people of Israel and especially the Zionists are much more delicate and sensible people who need and deserve a rather different approach? Still, what happens for example if Israel is not satisfied with the dumping of that resolution and does not feel any better towards the U.N. after all? Are there other resolutions to be crashed and trashed like 338 or 242, or maybe even 181 (rescind the partition — and donate all of Palestine)?

Well, this surely would solve the Palestinian question once and for all. But it would not bring about peace and stability in the region. And knowing that Eretz Israel — the real thing I mean, the one promised not quite by God but by Theodor Herzl — has to be much more than just Palestine, the Arab-Israeli dispute would remain unresolved too. So, where would be the limits of the new thinking and the appeasement approach?

I really wonder what the sensitive man from Peru has in store for the Arabs except suffering and pain. Did it ever occur to him that maybe the Arabs too would like to like the United Nations and feel secure from and through the Security Council?

Elmor Kaiser-Mohammad
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مَكَزًا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Addis Ababa braces for rebels

(Continued from page 1)

Rebel forces were closing in on Addis Ababa late on Monday after a rout of government troops since President Mengistu Haile Mariam fled to exile in Zimbabwe last Tuesday, effectively conceding defeat in the longest running civil war in Africa.

Volleys of gunfire resounded around the presidential palace on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian rebels ordered their fighters into the capital Addis Ababa on Monday after the government effectively surrendered to them by ordering its forces to cease fire.

The fighters of EPRDF who surround the city were expected to arrive within hours.

Diplomatic sources said they had heard from the EPRDF that the rebels' commanders had ordered their forces in.

First word of the ceasefire came from the U.S. government, mediator in the war, which also called on the rebels to restore order in Addis Ababa. Until Monday, the United States had asked the rebels to refrain from entering the capital in order not to threaten peace talks.

The ceasefire was announced in Addis Ababa a few hours later in a national radio broadcast by the interim government headed by Gebre Kidan, who took over after President Mengistu Haile Mariam resigned and fled Tuesday.

A few hours after the U.S. announcement, artillery and automatic weapons fire could be heard crackling on the distant outskirts of Addis Ababa and the city's lights went out.

It apparently remained for the government to instruct its troops to lay down their arms and permit the insurgents to enter the city unimpeded.

"This is the waiting day," a Western diplomat said earlier Monday. "If there's a peace treaty, they'll come in with flags flying and bugles blowing. If there is no treaty, they'll still come in, but with their guns firing."

Rebels have encircled the capital and control most strategic sites.

The rebels had captured the country's main military air base and trained long-range artillery on the international airport Monday.

A Western diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity said the international airport was under government control, but the rebels could go in at anytime. The airport is five miles east of the capital.

Since the resignation and flight into exile last Tuesday of President Mengistu, the rebels have heeded U.S. requests that they not try to seize the capital until the peace talks are completed.

Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, told reporters in London Monday: "In order to reduce uncertainties and eliminate tensions in the city, and after consulting with all of the parties, the U.S. government is recommending that the forces of the EPRDF enter the city as soon as possible to help stabilise the situation."

The announcement eased fears the rebels would have to fight their way into the city.

There are concerns that any outbreak of street fighting in the capital could seriously jeopardise already strained efforts by Western relief agencies to help the more than 5 million Ethiopians threatened with famine.

No comment was immediately available from the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, the largest of three rebel movements engaged in the talks.

On Monday, heavy fighting was reported at the presidential palace, apparently between two groups of government soldiers — the elite guard of the former president and regular troops. The troops were armed with tanks and automatic weapons.

Sources, including some Western diplomats, said there had been reports that the elite guard had been looting the presidential palace.

The reports could not be confirmed and the sources declined to be identified, but there was no indication rebels were involved in the firefighting.

Cohen's statement at the London talks urging the rebels to enter the capital was nearly drowned at times by shouts of "peace, peace," from Ethiopian exiles demonstrating outside the London hotel where the talks were being held.

The exiles maintained that a transitional government dominated by the rebels would be just as dictatorial as Mengistu's government.

Aides said Cohen expected to get the rebels and the government representatives face to face on Tuesday to seek a settlement that would bring peace to the African nation, long plagued by famine and civil strife.

Rebels are demanding a transitional administrator to replace Ethiopia's government and a referendum among Eritreans on independence for their northern province.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front is an umbrella movement dominated by Tigrean insurgents. It is being led at the London talks by its chairman, Meles Zenawi.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front delegation is led by Secretary-General Issayas Afewerki. It has been fighting since 1961 for independence.

The Oromo Liberation Front fights in the southwest of the country.

Iraq was new kind of war—biological warfare

A DEBATE is under way within the U.S. left over the nature and extent of the damage that western forces inflicted on Iraq, and on Baghdad in particular, during the Gulf war. In the May 6 issue of *The Nation*, Erika Munk, who visited Baghdad for four days in late March, claims that the U.S.-led bombing of the capital resulted in the "lowest number of civilian deaths from the bombing of a major city in the history of modern warfare."

Dr. Louise Cinkar, executive director of the Chicago-based Palestine Human Rights Information Centre, takes strong exception to Munk's article. From March 23 to April 15 Cinkar travelled throughout the country to gain first-hand information and document how the aftermath of the war is affecting civilians in the area. Cinkar contends that Munk's piece contains errors of both fact and interpretation, and that it does not provide the reader with much information.

On May 11 the National Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East held a "Public Hearing on U.S. War Crimes" to detail the effects of the war. The keynote speaker was former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who visited Iraq in early February to document the effects of the bombing. Upon his return, Clark wrote an article for *The Nation* describing the destruction. His eyewitness testimony was also featured in the Feb. 27 issue of the *Guardian*. The following is excerpted from information collected by Cinkar during her trip. She relayed her observations in an interview to Tom Johnson, a Chicago-based journalist.

THE first thing I saw after crossing the border was no less than 40 bombed-out cars, trucks and buses on the side of the road — all blown up and strafed. These were clearly civilian vehicles. Even shepherds were strafed and their flocks were killed. It was not always pinpoint bombing in that part of Iraq.

No doubt many of the people in those vehicles were dead because they had been burnt to a crisp. Many of these people were Iraqi civilians simply trying to flee Iraq.

The exact major bomb damage that I saw was the Al Falluja market. The British admitted to bombing it. The market is surrounded by four-storey apartment buildings. The Iraqis say 100 people died in the market bombing. This was a case of "collateral damage" when they missed the bridge across the Euphrates.

In Baghdad, what you see mainly is government buildings blown up. But the bombs often hit houses next to them. And even if they didn't, the force of the bomb explosions would break every single window in a six-square block area.

The most striking thing about Baghdad is that you have to walk around with a flashlight — if you can get one — or a candle. Most people used candles. There was no power at night much of the time that I was there, although it was improving. You couldn't drink the water coming out of the tap.

When Iraqis can get fuel they use kerosene stoves. I saw an entire hospital ward of burnt children who tipped over these stoves. Their bodies are burnt from head to toe. And they have no way to treat these babies. The

normal treatment is to submerge them into some kind of bath and then to put a lotion on them. They don't have any of this. Of course the bath requires clean water, and they don't have the lotion. The burns become infected because they don't have the antibiotics to stop the infection. They can't do skin grafts, so these children will just become encased in scar tissue — if they survive.

The next day I went to Basra from Baghdad. All the way down to Basra, all of the bridges had been blown up. There was one traffic lane, at best, open.

On the way into Basra we'd been detoured through the desert and all you could see were bombed-out tanks and trucks and skeletons along the way. The main hospital had been hit by a bomb, and the one hospital that was working was filled with dying babies.

I went from neighbourhood to neighbourhood in Basra, all hit by coalition bombs. The U.S. press said it was carpet-bombed.

The bombing was clearly not surgical in Basra area. The actual number of civilian deaths is unknown because the communications infrastructure has been destroyed so you can't call anywhere. But I myself can account for at least 600 dead in parts of Basra. Overall I personally counted about 4,000 civilian deaths in Iraq.

Iraqis would tell me: "We're back in the 17th century. We're back in the 18th century. We're back in the Stone Age." (Iraq's) infrastructure was very, very sophisticated; more than I've seen in any other Arab country.

So you have a society that functions on the basis of assuming that they have telephones, electricity, running water, drinking water, a working sewage system, good hospitals, medical care, the best surgeons, good roads. None of that exists any more.

Hospitals are without medicine, without medical equipment, without water. How can surgeons perform an operation when they can't clean anything? They have little or no electricity for lighting except in hospitals where stand-by generators are operating; they have no antibiotics. They have no refrigeration so they can't store any blood. They have no blood banks. There are severe fears of cholera, meningitis, typhoid and hepatitis epidemics. There are no vaccines in Iraq because of sanctions. They're still not being allowed to bring them in at the level in which they need them.

The way that surgical bombing was used was so that every single Iraqi would suffer. It's worse than random bombing. It's like neuro surgery. They took the brain out of an entire nation. So the functions that the brain is supposed to direct are just collapsing.

I saw hospital after hospital full of infants dying of malnutrition, dehydration, diarrhoea... infants that are maybe six months old and weigh less than their birth weight. I've seen hundreds and hundreds near death. And you must realise that, at best, only 10 per cent of the population can get to hospital or clinic.

The director of the children's hospital in Baghdad told me that every day they receive 40 new children — infants — and two of them are dead by the time that

they get there... For every 40 babies who arrive at that hospital, there are another 360 who might die because they can't get treatment. For every two who arrive dead, there may be another 20 who are dead and have not even gotten out of their houses. And this is in the region served by Baghdad — the area that's in the best shape. Imagine the rest of the country.

This was a new kind of war and we have to look at it differently. I call it biological warfare. All of the deaths have not yet happened. How many people continue to die every day? Among children under five it's at least 100. How many are going to die in May and June and July when the temperatures rise? The greatest amount of civilian casualties has not yet even happened.

You know that when you're destroying infrastructure you're spreading disease. And when you have hot weather, the deaths rise exponentially.

Because of sanctions, you don't have a medical system. You've got the technical expertise there, but they have nothing to work with.

Iraqi doctors told me that they can't even diagnose typhoid and cholera because they don't have the equipment to run lab tests. They have to rely solely on their clinical experience to diagnose and treat. They've even seen cases of polio, which was eradicated from Iraq 5 or 10 years ago.

While Cinkar was denied permission by the Kuwaiti government to enter the emirate, she was able to gather information on the situation of Palestinians in Kuwait.

IN Baghdad I stayed in the Iraqi Red Crescent Hospital. I met five Palestinians in the hospital who said they had been severely tortured by Kuwaitis and had just escaped.

I have photos. You can see the cigarette burns up and down their legs. They have bruises three inches wide by three inches long; one of them was hit in the head. They were walked on; they were hit with metal pipes; the torturers played Russian roulette with them. And they said they were told things like, "We can't wait to have Israeli embassies in Kuwait; we can't wait to get rid of you people."

All of them reported being picked up off the street going to get bread, shopping or something like that. It's an ethnic thing; if you're Palestinian or Jordanian in Kuwait, you're the enemy and that's it.

The most horrible thing that they told me was that in each of the detention centres, which were schools, there were U.S. soldiers. The Americans could have prevented the torture and did not. I suppose they call that "not intervening in the internal affairs of another state." Everything that the "Palestinians told me is consistent with the Amnesty International report (documenting the torture and execution of Palestinians in Kuwait).

The Pentagon has issued a 200-page report (before Kuwait's "liberation") about the fate of the Palestinians and others in Kuwait. It labels the Palestinians as "security threats," thereby setting the stage for human rights abuses, including torture and ex-



Three-month-old Marya Idan Haiva (with her mother) is one of Baghdad's many children who have been burnt by tipped-over kerosene lamps in use after U.S. bombs destroyed the country's electrical grid.

ecution. It predicts the expulsion of Palestinians. It calls for the reinstatement of dictatorship in Kuwait, the abrogation of press freedoms, all of it. It was all known and planned for.

Shortly before we left, a woman, who survived the bombing came in. As much as I could see of her flesh was covered with burns. She said that when the first bomb hit they were all sleeping. She was startled awake and was picked up by the crowd fleeing toward the exit doors. The second bomb sealed the inner doors shut and made escape impossible. Everybody left inside was incinerated.

When I saw this woman, all I could do was cry. You can't say, "I'm sorry." You can't say, "We didn't mean to do it." I felt that every American should be sitting this spot where I was sitting. Every single one, especially those people waving flags, should see what we did to these people. To be an American in this neighbourhood is to feel like a mass murderer — a participant in a massacre.

People in the neighbourhood say that there were 1,600 people in the shelter. The capacity is 2,000, but they're sure there were 1,600 people inside — nearly all women and children.

For a copy of the full report, send \$5.00 to: Palestine Human Rights Information Centre, 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 930, Chicago, Ill. 60640.

The article is reprinted from *The Guardian*, a New York-based radical newsweekly.

Pan-Arabists discuss nation's ills

(Continued from page 1)

\$1 billion annually. These investments, the paper asserted, were not compatible with the actual development needs of the Arab World.

The paper also discussed the ties between Arab economies and the international economy, and pointed out the changes taking place in world politics that would effect these kinds of ties are the collapse of Eastern Europe, the unity of the two Germanys and the expected unity of Europe in 1992.

In the second session a number of participants spoke of the political consequences of the Gulf war, and their long-term effects on the region.

Lower House of Parliament deputy Hussein Mijali said in his speech that the Arab World should come to terms with the defeat of Iraq. "His like our (the Arab) defeat in 1967 multiplied by ten," he said. Mr. Mijali said that the real enemy was the United States and called for uniting the Arab ranks by burying the past. He proposed the formation of a delegation to try and patch up differences especially between Iraq and Syria in order to face up to "the Zionist expansionist threat."

Another speaker, Mr. Ali Khalifeh from Qatar warned against the "American threat" following the end of the Gulf war. He said the U.S. policies aim at controlling Arab resources, mainly oil, and "preventing Arabs from using those resources to advance their causes."

Mr. Khalifeh said that Arabs should look to the future and prevent any kind of fragmentation or disintegration of any Arab country. Fragmentation "is the policy that only serves the purpose of the enemy," he said.

Mr. Khalifeh expressed concern over limiting Arab labour force in the Gulf to mainly Egyptian labourers. "The Egyptian labour force is not capable of handling the burden and would

require the intervention of foreign elements," he said.

The call for democracy in the region was echoed by more than one speaker.

Dr. Hisham Sharabi, a political science professor at Georgetown University in Washington said that the Arab World was in need of democratisation "in order to rid the people of despotic regimes, who control the fate of the people."

Mr. Wamid Nathani, an Iraqi, said that his country's leadership had committed many mistakes, mainly its shunning of democracy, its failure to ensure national unity and its aggressive posture towards Kuwait.

He added, however, that other regimes had committed worse acts by cooperating with Western elements in the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure and mere existence. "Some Arab regimes fought Iraq under the American flag," he said. "I refuse to forgive those governments and to clear them of crimes against the Iraqi people," he said.

Mr. Nathani expressed surprise at Arab regimes' response to the numerous United Nations resolutions passed against Iraq. "Why are the Arab regimes silent on the U.N. resolutions against Iraq?" he asked. "Ninety per cent of the Iraqi people are suffering from hunger and diseases as a result of the embargo against Iraq, yet Arab regimes are silent, and their silence is strange and suspicious," he said.

One more item on Monday's agenda was human rights in the Arab World. The participants agreed that 1990 has witnessed the most human rights violations against Arabs especially Palestinians and Iraqis. They discussed the continuous practices of the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinians in the occupied territories, and the results of the embargo enforced on Iraq since August and its effects on Iraqi people.

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Capriati advances at French Open

PARIS (AP) — Jennifer Capriati, a semifinalist in her French Open debut last year, had to struggle to overcome the looping "moon balls" of Italian Katia Piccolini as the tournament opened Monday.

The 15-year-old American, seeded 10th, saved three set points in the second set and won 6-2, 7-5 in the first match on centre court. It took her 89 minutes to overcome Piccolini, 18 and ranked 52nd in the world, who relied largely on long, high-arching ground strokes.

The first two seeded men in action advanced more easily. The no. 5 seed, clay-court specialist Sergi Bruguera of Spain, overpowered Scott Davis, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.

Tenth-seeded American Michael Chang, the 1989 winner, defeated Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands, 6-2, 6-0, 6-3.

Chang and unseeded Mats Wilander are the only former champions left in the men's field, following the withdrawal of 1990 winner Andre Gornes and three-time champion Ivan Lendl due to injuries.

Capriati, who last year didn't lose five games in any set until her semifinal loss to Monica Seles, admitted losing her patience as she fell behind Piccolini 3-5 in the second set. She saved three set points in the ninth game, regained her composure and closed out the match decisively.

Andre Agassi, last year's runner-up and this year's no. 4 seed, was expected to play Marc Rosset of Switzerland in one of Monday's feature matches.

Other opening-day stars included two American veterans

who've never won a French Open — John McEnroe, seeded 15th and Jimmy Connors, recipient of a wild-card berth.

The no. 1 seeds — Stefan Edberg and defending women's champion Monica Seles — start play Tuesday, as does men's second seed Boris Becker.

Steffi Graf, no. 2 in the women's field and determined to oust Seles from the no. 1 ranking, was to open Monday on centre court against Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva. No. 3 seed Gabriela Sabatini, also with a chance to replace Seles, goes into action Tuesday against American Marianne Werdel.

McEnroe, 32, hasn't played a French Open since 1988. His best showing was a loss in the final in 1984, and his draw this year leads to a potential third-round encounter with Edberg.

To get even that far, McEnroe must survive Monday's match with Soviet Andrei Cherkasov, 20, ranked 17th in the world — the highest of any player not seeded in Paris.

"I'm not expecting to win the tournament," McEnroe said. "I've just come to play well."

Connors, 38, skipped the French Open last year after losing in the second round in 1989. He opens against fellow American Todd Witsken, 27.

This was Connors' 12th crack at the French Open — the only Grand Slam event he's never won. His best results were four semifinal appearances, most recently in 1985.

Becker also has won each Grand Slam title except the French Open, and a victory here could move him past Edberg back



Jennifer Capriati

into the no. 1 spot. He opens Tuesday against Jordi Arrese of Spain.

Third-seeded Lendl and no. 13 Jonas Svensson withdrew Sunday because of injuries. Under tournament rules, those seeded positions will now remain vacant — Agassi, for example, does not move from no. 4 to no. 3 seed.

The United States had by far the largest contingent in the men's field, with 21 of the 128 players, including six seeds. France was next with 14 entrants. The men's champion will win

\$432,000 at Roland Garros, while the women's champion will earn \$395,000.

Seles, at a news conference Sunday, accused tournament officials of shortchanging women by refusing to dole out equal prize money, as is done at the U.S. and Australian Opens.

"We're not asking for something incredible, we're asking for fairness. I don't see why men will get more prize money than us here," she said. "It's a tradition, but I think a lot of traditions ought to change."

Juventus mourns failure to qualify for Europe

By Reuters

Tradiional Italian soccer giants Juventus were left peering uncertainly into the future Monday after failing to qualify for European competition for the first time for 28 years.

A 2-0 defeat in their last match of the season at Genoa Sunday condemned Juventus in seventh place in the table.

Having spent \$48 million on the transfer market last year to create the "team of the future" around players like Italian Roberto Baggio and German Tomas Haessler, there was understandable disappointment behind the scenes.

"This has been a very bitter pill. We'll have to start all over again from the beginning," said club President Vittorio Chianano.

"That's all there is to say. Tomorrow it will be another Juventus."

Captain Stefano Tacconi offered no excuses for his side's poor season, saying: "It (the season) began badly and finished worse. We're very sad."

Genoa, in contrast, were celebrating their achievement in qualifying for Europe for the first time. Their goals Sunday came from Brazilian Branco and Czechoslovak Tomas Skuhravy.

The city of Genoa can arguably claim to be the new capital of Italian soccer following Sampdoria's achievement in seeing off the bigger clubs in Milan, Turin and Rome to take the title.

The new champions go in

search of a league and cup double when they meet AS Roma in the first leg of the Italian Cup final Thursday.

In Spain, Real Madrid are only a point away from securing a place in next season's UEFA Cup but, with games against Atletico Madrid and Barcelona to come, Yugoslav coach Radomir Antic cannot afford to relax.

"There is only a point to go but we have two very strong dishes still to eat," Antic said after Saturday's 2-1 home win over Sporting Gijon.

Antic was hired to give last season's champions a dignified

European Soccer

exit from a humiliating season, but is likely to be replaced next season by former Colombian national coach Francisco Maturana, currently at Valladolid.

With two matches to go to the end of the Dutch League season, PSV Eindhoven and Ajax Amsterdam are equal on points and the title's looking increasingly likely to be settled by goal difference.

Former England manager Bobby Robson's PSV are four goals better off at the moment. They face third-placed FC Groningen and Volendam in their final matches.

Ajax face struggling SVV Schiedam who desperately need points to avoid relegation, and Vitesse Arnhem, currently fifth and still in with a chance of a

S. Africa can return to African track meets

TOKYO (AP) — South African athletes are once again welcome at international track meets, but only in Africa, the sport's governing body announced Monday.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has decided to partially lift its ban on South Africans in international competition because of the gradual easing of apartheid, said IAAF President Primo Nebiolo.

Nebiolo said the return of South Africans would be restricted at first to meets in Africa and to those in which only African athletes are competing.

A broader lifting of the ban could come after another IAAF delegation studies the "evolution of South Africa's political and sports situation" in late June, he added.

South Africa's membership in the IAAF was suspended in 1976 as part of international sanctions against apartheid — South Africa's policy of racial separation.

The IAAF's decision to allow South Africa's conditional return was made after the federation's 23-member council, meeting at a Tokyo hotel, heard a report from a fact-finding mission that visited South Africa earlier this month.

"Naturally, the most important condition is the abolishment of apartheid," Nebiolo said. "If talks are to continue, apartheid must finish."

South African President F.W.

De Klerk has promised to repeal remaining apartheid laws by the end of June. South Africa recently met another IAAF condition by creating a unified, non-racial national athletic governing body.

The 185-member IAAF has accepted that governing body as a provisional member of the African Amateur Athletic Federation, thus opening the way for South Africans to compete in IAAF-authorized meets in Africa, Nebiolo said.

He refused, however, to comment on whether South Africans would be eligible to compete in the upcoming World Championships, scheduled to begin in Tokyo on Aug. 23.

More than 1,750 athletes from 160 countries are expected to compete in the championships, which are held once every four years.

Nebiolo has said that if South Africa misses the world championships, its athletes probably will also have to sit out the summer Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, next year.

The deadline for entries to the World Championships is Aug. 14. But the IAAF's second delegation isn't scheduled to report on whether South Africa's membership should be restored until Aug. 19.

An earlier meeting of the IAAF could be called if deemed necessary, Nebiolo said.

Marseille, Red Star prepare for battle of wits

BARI, Italy (R) — Olympique Marseille and Red Star Belgrade have been developing tactics to allow their gifted individuals space in midfield in Wednesday's European Cup final.

Marseille's wily Belgian coach Raymond Goethals said: "It's very simple, if we look up the midfield, victory is ours."

Goethals, whose squad arrived in the Italian Adriatic port city of Bari Monday from a retreat in the French Alps, added: "Our confi-

dence is sky high."

"The players have not lost for more than four months and it looks like nothing bad can happen to them."

Red Star, who checked in at a secluded hotel 40 kilometres south of Bari last Friday, fear Marseille's forwards, Englishman Chris Waddle, Jean-Pierre Papin of France and Ghanaian Abedi Pele.

The trio combined to tear open

Milan's defence in the quarterfinals.

"I'll probably resort to man-to-man marking only on Papin and Waddle," Red Star's coach Ljupko Petrovic said.

"I'll have the rest of the team playing zonally because I believe it's the only way to avoid the French side's pressing and dizzying rhythm."

Marseille will no doubt be wary of some skilled opponents, most notably 22-year-old Robert Prosinecki, Red Star's playmaker since Dragan Stojkovic joined the French club after the World Cup.

"Beigrade have got a very strong midfield with top class players and we will have to watch them very carefully," Goethals said.

The Marseille coach has said Stojkovic, who has missed most of the season through injury, would start on the bench.

The match could hinge on the finishing of Papin and his opposite number Darko Pancev, both prolific scorers in league and European football this season.

But Petrovic believes teamwork rather than individuals will settle the issue.

"I've told my players they'll win if they manage to apply my instructions to the letter," he

said.

Concentration, which Red Star have struggled to find in recent weeks, could prove as important as tactics and the Yugoslavs have brought along a psychiatrist to ensure they are in the right frame of mind.

"The match on Wednesday is the most important in the club's history and we want to be sure about everything," Petrovic said.

The Yugoslavs also have a powerful financial incentive to help boost their concentration. They will be fired by reported bonuses of \$10,000 a man to win and the prospect of lucrative transfers to Western European clubs.

But the Italian press has reported that Marseille players have been offered as much as \$200,000 per man to lift the cup.

Red Star boast the sole former European Cup finalist in 27-year-old Romanian defender Miodrag Belodedic, who won the trophy with Steaua Bucharest in 1986.

The Bari Stadium, which has a capacity of 57,000, was one of the venues for last summer's World Cup.

Local authorities have banned drinking in the city Wednesday as a precaution against rowdy behaviour.

Peace Corps Wins Sweden harness race by a nose

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Peace Corps held off Kit Lobell, another U.S.-bred, Swedish-owned filly, by a nose in the 40th Elitloppet Sunday to become the first female horse in 15 years to win the world's richest harness race for seasoned trotters.

Peace Corps, the 1989 U.S. trotter of the year and the fastest filly in the world, covered the mile in 1 minute, 56.2 seconds.

It was 1.9 seconds off last year's winning time, when Mack Lobell trounced Peace Corps in the first-ever meeting between the world's fastest male and female trotters.

"But she had an outstanding race, especially toward the end when Kit Lobell made a strong challenge. She is a tough lady," said driver Stig H. Johansson.

Johansson, Sweden's leading driver with 3,238 winners, tied the all-time record by winning the prestigious race for the fourth time and improved Peace Corps' record to 47 wins in 59 starts. The 5-year-old Peace Corps,

who had an impressive win in the Oslo Grand Prix two weeks ago, is unbeaten in six starts this year.

Kit Lobell, with U.S.-based Swede Berndt Lindstedt in the sulky, finished one-tenth of a second behind. Neally Lobell, another U.S.-bred, Swedish-owned horse, led before the last turn but dropped back to fifth.

Peace Corps also won the first of two qualifying heats and gave owner Bjorn Pettersson, who purchased the horse from American Lou Guida for \$1.6 million two years ago, a total of \$210,000. The purse boosted her career earnings to more than \$3 million.

Johansson also drove Shogun Lobell to victory in the second qualifying heat, but the U.S.-bred 5-year-old broke early in the final with Swede Olle Goop in the sulky.

Mack Lobell, the 1987 U.S. trotter of the year and also Swedish-owned, was scratched from the race because of a recent cold.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

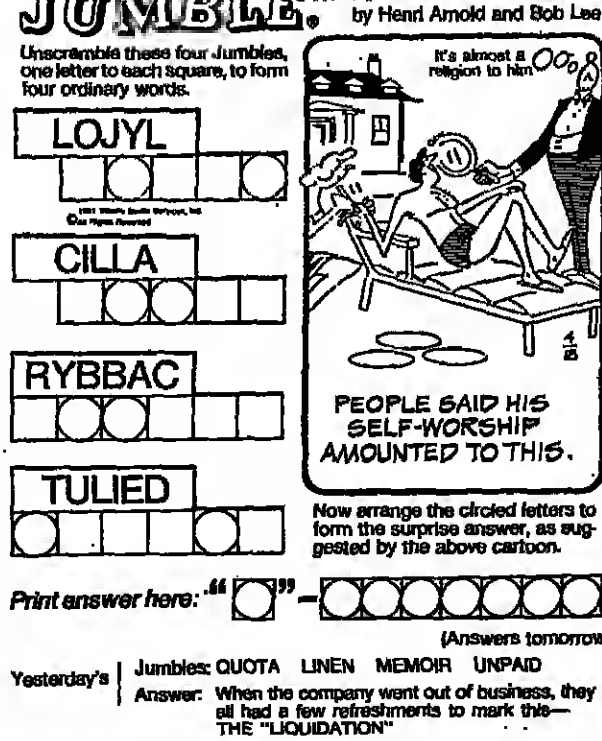


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Sterling Pound	1.7355	1.7310
Deutsche Mark	1.7035	1.6917
Swiss Franc	1.4513	1.4405
French Franc	5.7920	5.7733
Japanese Yen	136.77	136.27
European Currency Unit	1.2056	1.2061

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Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.67	5.93	6.06	6.43
Sterling Pound	11.50	11.55	11.06	10.95
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.31	8.84	9.00
Swiss Franc	8.00	7.95	7.67	7.75
French Franc	9.12	9.06	9.06	9.12
Japanese Yen	7.90	7.58	7.56	7.30
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.67	9.56	9.43

Interest rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 JGD or equivalent

Price of Metals Date: 27/5/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	356.35	6.60	Silver	4.05	.087

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 27/5/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.660	.662
Sterling Pound	1.1793	1.1857
Deutsche Mark	.3997	.4017
Swiss Franc	.4693	.4710
French Franc	.1177	.1183
Japanese Yen	.4910	.4935
Dutch Guilder	.3550	.3568
Swedish Krona	.1116	.1122
Italian Lira	.0535	.0541
Belgian Franc	.01931	.01941

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 27/5/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7300	1.7400
Lebanese Lira	.0740	.0760
Saudi Riyal	.1810	.1819
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1830	.1840
Egyptian Pound	.7900	.8050
Omani Riyal	1.7150	1.7300
UAE Dirham	.1830	.1840
Greek Drachma	.3600	.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400

Per 100

CAJ Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	22/5/1991 Close	26/5/1991 Close
All-Share	114.13	113.72
Banking Sector	110.98	110.40
Insurance Sector	112.59	112.02
Industry Sector	117.51	117.29
Services Sector	126.65	126.93

December 31, 1990 = 100

Iran urges global dialogue to minimise oil price volatility

ISFAHAN, Iran (R) — Iranian ministers opened a landmark international conference Monday with a call for cooperation between oil producers and consumers to minimise price volatility and promote economic stability.

The oil conference is Iran's largest since the 1979 Islamic revolution and shows its eagerness to present itself as a country the world can do business with.

Arab and Western analysts said the turnout — some 250 government and oil company officials — reflected how ready previously hostile countries now were to cooperate with Iran.

"By guaranteeing the demand for oil, and preventing unnecessary and destructive oil price fluctuations, the consumers too can play their part in allowing for a smooth and orderly implementation of the producers' economic development projects," Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said.

The three-day conference, entitled "Oil and Gas in the 1990s: Prospects for Cooperation," is attended by nine other oil ministers from producer states.

The keynote speaker is Saudi Arabia's Hisham Nazer, the first Saudi oil minister to visit Iran in 12 years. His government restored diplomatic relations with Tehran in March.

In his speech to the gathering in the central Iranian city of Isfahan, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati called for cooperation within the region in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

"We believe it is in the light of regional cooperation that foreign intervention can be prevented. Only as such can we decrease the presence of extra regional forces that come to preserve their interest in the region," he said.

"The time is ripe to muster all political, economic, financial and mineral resources and promote an atmosphere of cooperation to ensure regional security," he stressed.

Reconstruction after the eight-year war with Iraq is a top priority for the government, which depends on oil revenues to fund a five-year economic programme that Iranian economists say will require around \$27 billion in foreign credits.

Officials of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) say the Isfahan conference is especially important because the 13-member body's two-yearly meeting starts in Vienna on June 4.

Members will then discuss the oil production levels needed to defend the group's reference price of \$21 a barrel, \$3 above current market rates.

OPEC President Sadok Bousena of Algeria last week called for a lower ceiling than the present 22.3 million barrels per day.

Elements of the economy's current decline include production shortfalls, worsening inflation, a breakdown in trade among regions of the country and the fierce political struggle to hold the union together.

Increasingly, republics which produce large amounts of food and other consumer goods have sought to protect themselves by refusing to deliver products to the central government or to other traditional recipients, the report said.

The tendency mirrors what one survey showed was the practice of nine out of ten Soviet citizens who stockpile goods for future use, the report said. Many shoppers buy items they do not need to use in bating for things they do need, it said.

Primary losers in this breakdown of the national distribution network have been industrial cities, non-agricultural regions and the food processing industry, the CIA reported.

The Soviet trade picture also is suffering, despite a brief respite late last year from an increase in oil prices during the Gulf crisis. The country's trade deficit for the first half of 1990 reached a record \$4 billion, the report said.



Carla Hills

Trade chief says free trade vital to U.S. exports

WASHINGTON (R) — Trade Representative Carla Hills said Sunday that free-trade agreements such as the one Washington is negotiating with Mexico can create 22,000 U.S. jobs for every \$1 billion in new exports.

The U.S.-Mexico trade pact, which she hopes to seal by year's end, is a key part of a strategy to promote U.S. competitiveness and boost exports.

She added that exports have accounted for more than half of U.S. growth in the last two or three years.

"If we limit ourselves to our domestic market we are going to lose the opportunity to build jobs and economic strength worldwide," she said in an interview on U.S. television.

She said free trade could add 22,000 jobs for every \$1 billion in new exports.

In the same programme, Senator Donald Riegle, a Michigan Democrat who sits on an important trade subcommittee, said that he intended to propose legislation that would allow any U.S.-Mexico free-trade agreement to be reopened for negotiation in five key areas, including labour and environmental standards.

Such a move would run counter to the vote taken by Congress last week, which cleared the way for U.S. officials to negotiate a free-trade package with Mexico that legislators could only vote yes or no on — not accept or reject piecemeal.

The vote, which also gave the same so-called "fast-track" authority to global trade talks, capped months of intense debate and stiff opposition from labour unions and some consumer groups who fear U.S. job losses and lack of environmental controls.

Hills, however, dismissed such worries, saying that a North American free-trade-zone — including Canada, which already has an agreement with the United States — would increase exports and thus create more jobs.

Mexican secretary for trade and industry, Mr. Jaime Serra Puche, also speaking in a television interview, said he doubted removing barriers to trade will create a huge exodus of U.S. industry to low-wage Mexico where enforcement of pollution controls are laxer.

Sudan announces pay rises for state employees

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's Finance and Planning Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi has announced pay rises of 30 to 100 per cent for state employees from July 1, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Monday.

SUNA said the minimum monthly wage would double to 600 pounds (\$134 at the official rate of exchange) while the highest salary, about 2,700 pounds (600), would rise by 30 per cent.

The agency said the rises were part of the 1991/92 budget approved by the ruling military council and the largely civilian cabinet Saturday.

Mr. Hamdi said total expenditure in the budget for the year to June 30, 1992, was 42.5 million pounds (\$9.6 billion) while revenue would be about 41.2 billion pounds, leaving a deficit of 1.3 billion pounds compared to 3.3 billion pounds in the 1990/91 budget.

The total expenditure includes the 10.4 billion pounds (\$2.3 billion) development budget.

Mr. Hamdi said domestic revenue would increase from 16 billion pounds (\$3.6 billion) to 32.6 billion (\$7.2 billion).

He gave no details on where the higher revenue was expected to come from.

Mr. Hamdi said one aim of the new budget was to increase the rate of growth to two per cent and to halve inflation to 50 per cent within a year. He gave no figure for current growth.

Sudan, ravaged by drought and civil war and unable to service any part of its \$13 billion foreign debt, last week held talks with the International Monetary Fund to try to win removal of a five-year-old ban on fresh credits.

The minister said there would be no increase in taxes or prices for sugar and bread. The cost of diesel and petrol bought to supplement the rationed quantity will rise.

Mr. Hamdi said foreign exchange revenues were expected to reach \$1.6 billion, made up of \$450 million from exports, \$110 million from services, \$100 million from expatriate remittances, \$410 million in commodity loans and grants and \$519 million from loans and grants for development projects.

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U.N. disarmament meeting calls for arms registry

KYOTO, Japan (R) — Key speakers at a United Nations Disarmament Conference called Monday for a weapons trade registry as a means of improving surveillance of the international arms trade.

"Favourable conditions are emerging today for... the idea of establishing a register of arms sales and supplies within the United Nations," Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said in his address on the opening day of the second United Nations Conference on Disarmament issues.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said: "the establishment of a U.N. register of arms sales... would be a very useful step forward."

Officials and experts from 37 countries are taking part in the four-day meeting at Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto.

Major topics at the conference, which comes only three months after the end of the Gulf war, included ways to regulate sales of conventional weapons, how to speed up a ban on chemical weapons, and methods of strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Speakers Monday called on participants to quicken the pace of negotiations for the chemical weapons convention, under discussion for about two decades in Geneva.

They welcomed U.S. President George Bush's recent declaration that the United States would scrap all chemical weapons upon signing such a treaty, abandoning its stated policy to keep some weapons as a guarantee.

"The Gulf war created a tremendous opportunity to move quickly to rid the world of chemical weapons," said Ronald Lehman, head of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. "The moral reasons for eradicating this barbarous form of weaponry are well known."

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called for a strengthening of the NPT and argued that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should take forcible steps, or "special inspections," to verify that a country's nuclear research and development facilities were used only for peaceful purposes.

Until now, the IAEA has adhered to the policy that it would conduct only "regular inspections," which are made at government invitation.

"(Japan) believes serious study should be directed to the possibility of utilising special inspections as a means of enhancing the efficiency of the (IAEA's) safe-

guard system," Kaifu said. For the first time, officials from North and South Korea are taking part in the U.N. conference.

North Korea, among other nations, has signed the NPT treaty but has refused IAEA inspections on the grounds that U.S. facilities in rival South Korea should also be subject to verification.

This has been a roadblock in talks between North Korea and Japan or normalising relations. Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus called on the United Nations to go back to its roots to reduce the threat of conflict so developing countries could make better use of limited funds for social programmes instead of weapons purchases.

"The developing nations now spend \$170 billion annually for arms, four times more than what they spend on health and two times more than what they spend on education," Manglapus said.

Monday's five speakers all urged the United Nations to take a more active role in global disarmament.

"Just as the U.N. has virtually wiped out smallpox from the face of the earth, so should it work to eliminate the scourge of chemical and biological weapons and the threat of irresponsible build-ups," Lehman said.

Gamsakhurdia's triumph will increase his authority in conflicts with Moscow over the republic's April declaration of independence.

It will also strengthen his radical internal measures to impose strong central authority on local government.

Disputes between Georgians and minority groups in the southern republic have erupted into violence. Scores have died in heavy fighting in the region of South Ossetia since the Georgian parliament dissolved its local autonomy last year.

Gamsakhurdia argues that these and other measures are necessary to root out the last vestiges of communism in the Transcaucasian Republic. His opponents accuse him of leading Georgia towards dictatorship.

Meanwhile nationalist groups from six Soviet republics said Sunday they had agreed to join forces to campaign for independence.

The six — Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania and Moldova — declined last month to join the nine other Soviet republics which agreed in principle on a new union treaty.

The Kishinyov Forum, named after the Moldovan capital where their representatives met Saturday, said in a statement the Kremlin's refusal to let them leave the union was serious threat to world peace.

"Normalisation of the situation in the Soviet Union and stability in the world are impossible without recognition and observance of the rights of the republics which have chosen to set up independent states," it said.

The forum pledged to meet at least once a month to coordinate activities and plan joint political action.

Leaders of the nine other republics signed an accord with President Mikhail Gorbachev last month agreeing in principle on the new union treaty. This will define division of powers between central and republican governments and is still being debated.

Gorbachev says all republics are free to leave the union, but must follow a five-year constitutional process. More radical nationalists, however, do not recognise their incorporation into the Soviet Union at all.

The forum said the Kremlin was trying to hang on to its "empire" through economic blockade, state terrorism and outright military aggression.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Information that Japanese and South Korean sensors had recently detected a temperature leap at North Korea's nuclear complex jarred U.S. analysts into an alert.

While the Americans pored over satellite data, Seoul placed its monitoring stations on alert for radioactive particles in case the temperature increase meant there had been a nuclear accident or test.

"It was a bogus report," said a U.S. government official familiar with the incident who spoke on condition of anonymity. "There was no jump in temperature, there was nothing there."

But he said the brief panic reflects anxiety about Pyongyang's nuclear programme which, some say could produce a weapon within four to eight years.

The United States is worried that if North Korea conducts a nuclear test, South Korea and Japan would be pushed into the nuclear arms race. Neither has nuclear weapons, largely because of U.S. pressure.

Georgian nationalist leader elected president

TBILISI, Soviet Union (R) — Georgian nationalist leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia has won an overwhelming victory in the Soviet Union's first direct elections for a Republican president, preliminary results showed Monday.

A spokesman for the electoral commission said Gamsakhurdia, bent on a radical course of independence from Moscow, had won 87 per cent of the vote in Sunday's poll. His nearest rival, economist Valerian Advazde, mustered six per cent.

Gamsakhurdia, first elected president by the Georgian parliament last October after his "Round Table" Coalition ended decades of Communist rule in republican polls, had accused Advazde and his four other opponents of serving Moscow's ends.

All six candidates had campaigned on a policy of securing Georgian independence from the Soviet Union.

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Mystery man who impersonated reporter sought in Gandhi death

MADRAS (AP) — A mystery man who pretended to be a reporter is being sought by police in the bomb assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, according to sources close to the investigation.

Investigators think the man might have been part of a backup squad which would have stepped in if the primary assassin had lost his nerve and failed to detonate the bomb which was designed to blow him up along with Gandhi, the sources said Sunday.

The 18 people killed in last Tuesday's bombing included a young woman who was cut to pieces by what investigators described as an explosive-laden belt strapped around her waist.

The mystery man had hired a Madras free-lance photographer to accompany him to the election rally at Sriperambudur, 40 kilometres southwest of Madras, according to the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He held a notebook and pen in his hand and stood next to the photographer before Gandhi arrived, the sources said.

They said they did not know the man's identity but had determined he was not a journalist. They theorised that he hired the photographer as part of his masquerade. He became a suspect because of his mysterious disappearance after the assassination they added.

The mystery man and the woman who is the prime suspect both appear on a film taken by an amateur video film maker, the sources said. Neither has been identified.

Meanwhile, the grieving family of Gandhi took the ashes of the slain leader on a train of mourning Monday to be scattered in the water of sacred rivers.

Gandhi's widow Sonia and two college-age children boarded the train with two copper urns containing some of Gandhi's cremated remains. After a 20-hour ride, the ashes will be immersed at Sangam, the confluence of the holy Ganges and Yamuna rivers which will bear them 1,000 kilometres to the Bay of Bengal.

One of the 32 urns was given to an Indian Air Force officer to scatter over the snow Himalayan Mountains, as was done with the ashes of Gandhi's mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984.

The other urns, containing mostly ashes from the fragrant sandalwood funeral pyre, were given to state leaders of the Congress Party to take to their states.

Talks were suspended until Wednesday on naming a new Congress Party leader, apparently deepening the disarray in the party which has dominated Indian politics since independence from Britain in 1947.

A consensus appeared to be emerging to appoint P.V. Narasimha Rao, a Congress veteran and old Gandhi family friend, as interim party president until after national elections are completed in mid-June. A first round of voting for a new parliament was held the day before the assassination.

Rao, 69, is in fragile health. A battle was under way for succession after the stop-gap president carries Congress through the election.

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) Monday dismissed a weekend state-sponsored peace summit as lacking in substance but said it would support a more broadly based conference.

"The weekend conference on violence, unilaterally convened by state President (F.W.) de Klerk, has, as we feared, produced little by way of meaningful results," the ANC, which boycotted the conference, said in a statement.

The group, one of South Africa's biggest black political parties, said it was still studying conference decisions, which included setting up two committees to work for an all-party initiative to end township violence.

The bloodshed continued despite the summit.

Police said seven people were shot, burned or stabbed to death in political clashes in black townships Sunday, taking the weekend death toll to at least 20.

De Klerk told the conference in Pretoria the initiative could work only if all sides in the conflict, including the ANC, took part.

The ANC statement said the movement was committed to participating in a conference which would set codes of conduct for political parties and the security forces.

Such a meeting should also discuss the powers and functions of an independent commission on violence and discuss a rebuilding programme for violence-torn communities.

Support for Socialists increases in Spain

MADRID (R) — Spain's ruling Socialist Party increased its support in nationwide local elections but lost the capital Madrid to opposition conservatives, official results showed Monday.

With 99 per cent of the votes counted from Sunday's polls, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) had won 38.4 per cent of the vote, up from the 37.2 per cent it recorded in local elections in 1987.

The conservative Partido Popular (PP), led by Jose Maria Aznar, raised its vote to 25.2 per cent from 20.3 per cent four years ago.

PP's biggest success was in the Madrid City Council, where it won an absolute majority, overturning a Socialist victory in 1987.

The left-wing United Left (IU) coalition also made gains, lifting its vote to 8.5 per cent from 6.9 four years ago.

The big loser was the Democratic and Social Centre (CDS), which saw its vote halved and was eliminated from the councils of all but one of the country's major cities.

CDS leader Adolfo Suarez, prime minister during the early days of Spain's democracy after the death of dictator Francisco Franco, announced his resignation early Monday.

Just over 60 per cent of Spain's 30 million eligible voters turned out for the polls for the governments of 13 of the country's 17 autonomous regions and for mayors and councillors of more than 8,000 municipalities — against 69 per cent in 1987.

Results showed the Socialists leading the poll in nine of the 13 regions contested, with an absolute majority in four. The PP led in three regions and was level with the PSOE in a fourth.

The Socialists looked set to govern in Barcelona with the support of IU, but in Seville and Valencia possible power-sharing deals between the PP and regional parties could rob the Socialists of control.

Strong quake hits islands near Tokyo

TOKYO (Agencies) — A strong earthquake jiggled islands off the east coast of Japan's main island of Honshu Monday morning, the Central Meteorological Agency said.

No damage or injuries were reported on Miyakejima Island in the 10:14 a.m. (0114 GMT) quake, the agency said. It placed the epicentre about 10 kilometres below the sea bed in the Pacific Ocean 190 kilometres off Tokyo.

The preliminary reading was 4.4 on the Richter Scale and three on the Japanese scale of seven.

The open-ended Richter Scale is a gauge of the total strength of an earthquake. A quake registering 4.0 on the scale is considered "strong," and 5 "very strong."

The Japanese scale of one to seven measures the intensity of horizontal ground motion at different locations and is not convertible to the Richter Scale.

Meanwhile, Mount Unzen, a once-dormant volcano on Japan's main southern island of Kyushu, spewed more lava and smoke Monday after erupting Sunday, injuring one person and forcing some 3,500 to flee.

Experts warned of continued activity.

Huge clouds of grey smoke covered the top of the rumbling volcano while lava seeped through cracks in its crown, according to the government's meteorological agency which monitors the volcano in western Kyushu's Nagasaki prefecture.

The minor eruption pushed a mixture of mud and rocks further down the 1,359-metre (4,442-

British queen wraps up U.S. visit

LEXINGTON, Kentucky (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II bid goodbye to her Kentucky hosts and police as she boarded a plane home to England Sunday.

The 65-year-old queen arrived Thursday in Kentucky and visited 10 horse farms to fine up some private time touring horse farms in Kentucky after highly visible stops with Prince Philip, Washington, Florida and Texas.

They arrived on May 14. Philip returned to England after Texas. The 65-year-old queen arrived Thursday in Kentucky and visited 10 horse farms to fine up some private time touring horse farms in Kentucky after highly visible stops with Prince Philip, Washington, Florida and Texas.

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Machine-gun enthusiasts have fun in Texas

HELOTES, Texas (R) — The smell of gunpowder filled the air as hundreds of machine-gun enthusiasts gathered here for the fourth annual hill country machine gun shoot and show.

Participants at the shoot, located 20 miles (30 kilometres) from the Texas city of San Antonio, paid \$5 admission fee and \$10 to rent and shoot guns they usually see only in films or on television.

Organisers expect more than 1,000 visitors before the shoot closes. The choices range from M-16s to Uzis and even a small anti-aircraft gun coating eager enthusiasts \$1 a bullet to fire.

Machine-guns may seem to be strictly adult entertainment, but organisers have promoted the U.S. Memorial Day holiday weekend event in advertisement as family entertainment "giving (kids) the chance of a lifetime to have fun discovering a new hobby."

Children of any age can go to shoot the display guns. Alcohol is banned and local law enforcement and military personnel monitor safety.

Scotland Yard 'spied' on BBC journalist

LONDON (AP) — The Observer, a respected British newspaper, reported Sunday that Scotland Yard officials have admitted spying on a BBC journalist. The Observer said the target of the 1985 surveillance was Andrew Jennings, a former reporter for the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) "Brass Tacks" series. The paper said Jennings had been investigating allegations of a corrupt relationship between senior Scotland Yard detective and a notorious gangster.

The Observer said officers stalked Jennings' home and tapped his phone. The newspaper said Jennings was never accused of an offence. The newspaper said the Labour Party's shadow home affairs minister, Barry Sheehan, wanted assurance from Scotland Yard that other surveillance of citizens have not been mounted against journalists. "It is essential to clear up the deep worries that this has brought about," Sheehan was quoted as saying. The Observer quoted Jennings as saying he was "grinning satisfied that Scotland Yard had finally admitted to the surveillance, but that he couldn't understand why it had taken so long for the admission to come.

Police help deliver twins in back of patrol car

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A woman who woke up with severe labour pains flagged down a police car and gave birth to two boys in the back seat. The two officers in the patrol car were on the lookout for a man with a gun when they caught sight of Louise Richardson on the roadside near her home around 6 a.m. "I asked her what's wrong, and she said she was going to have a baby," said officer Shaun Brown. He asked her how far along she was and she said, "right now." Mr. Richardson, 27, said she woke up in labour and called her stepfather, but his car was out of gas. She went outside with a friend to try to flag down a passing motorist to bring her to the hospital. The officers rushed her to Toussaint Infirmary in less than three minutes. A nurse delivered Mrs. Richardson's twin sons, Derrick and Eric, with help from the officers. Ms. Richardson already has twin daughters who were born in 1987.

Suriname voters restore nominal civilian rule

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (AP) — Voters restored nominal civilian rule to Suriname but the military-backed party gained strong backing in weekend parliamentary elections called after the army seized power five months ago.

The New Front for Democracy and Development, a four-party coalition that swept the 1987 elections with 95 per cent of the vote, was projected Sunday to have won 30 seats. That was down from 40 in the outgoing parliament and five short of the 34 needed for a crucial two-thirds majority.

The government installed by army chief Lt. Col. Desi Bouterse, reputed leader of a Christmas Eve coup here, won surprisingly heavy backing in Saturday's election of a National Assembly, ensuring continued strong military influence in running this remote South American country of 420,000 people.